

MINUTES OF THE SESSION

Stated Meeting

First Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC

Monday, March 19, 2018

STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

Called to order with prayer at 7:00 pm by Mindy Douglas

Jerry Postema led a devotional with reflections on the use of the Hebrew Testament in our Christian worship, noting that in a sense the Psalms are our book of common prayer. He opened the meeting with prayer from the book of Psalms.

PRESENT—A quorum was present, including:

- Moderator Mindy Douglas, Pastor
- Marilyn Hedgpeth, Associate Pastor
- Sarah Finbow, Youth Minister
- Christyn Klinck, Clerk
- Chris Brown, Deacon and Chair of the Property Committee
- the following Elders, representing a quorum:

Class of 2018

Al Arrowood

Lenore Champion

Gerald Postema

Caroline Rourk

Eric Wiebe

Jane Williams

Sigfried Fullenkamp

Class of 2019

George Bernhardt

Barbara Buckley

Libby Gully

Delia Kwon

Karen Romines

Gray Wilson

Class of 2020

Carol Carson

Brent Curtis

Andy Henry

Tyler Momsen-Hudson

Alice Raney

Excused absences: Ellie Dilworth, Jane Wettach, Miriam Morey, Cris Rivera

Other absences: Dewey Lawson

CONCERNS/CELEBRATIONS

Mindy mentioned pastoral concerns and celebrations, noting the death of Dorothy Graham. Dorothy's service will be on Holy Saturday at 10 a.m., with reception to follow.

Celebrations include three members of FPC who are pursuing higher education in religious studies.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In preparation for Holy Week, Mindy distributed an article about foot-washing. A foot-

or hand-washing service will be part of the Maundy Thursday service we will celebrate with Covenant Presbyterian. See article attached.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *It was moved, seconded, and passed that the agenda be approved.*

CONSENT AGENDA: *It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Consent Agenda be approved.*

The Consent Agenda as approved includes:

- A. Reception of minutes
 1. Stated Session Meeting February 23, 2018
 2. Congregational Meeting March 4, 2018
- B. Committee minutes and Diaconate Report – Christian Education 03-2018; Property Committee 3-12-18; Service and Mission Committee 3-12-18; Diaconate report 2-26-18.

STAFF REPORTS

Mindy

- Attended and presented at the NEXT Church conference.
- Attended to many pastoral concerns in February.
- Participated in the work of the Strategic Planning Team (report later in the meeting)
- Participated in the work of CAN on affordable housing. A public action will be held in mid-April, focusing on the parking lot between FPC and St. Philip's Episcopal. Hope there will be much participation from FPC.
- Is excited about Maundy Thursday service with Covenant Presbyterian and Beacon Light churches—simple dinner together at 6 p.m.; service at 7 p.m.
- Officiated at weddings. Attended the funeral this past week of Jim McKinnon, Mindy's first mentor after seminary.
- Thanks to Brent and Lenore for the recent excellent children's sermons in our worship.

Marilyn

- Provided much pastoral care in February.
- Is enjoying teaching—new member class; Friday morning Bible study group (seven deadly sins; vices and virtues); and elective poetry reading class for Lent, which has been popular and will continue as a monthly class.

Sarah

- Much smaller youth group this year (huge group of youth graduated last year).
- Working with Lenore Champion and Kim Abels to revise the youth group and Sunday School classes.

- Has been conducting Mystery Days with the youth groups; the youth don't know what's going to be happening when they arrive at youth group. Hint: the youth in the history of our youth group have never done the next two events planned.
- Gearing up for three summer trips: Massanetta for the middle school; Montreat for the high school; and the intergenerational mission trip to Kinston (Hurricane Matthew repair).
- Have participating in events with other youth groups – Judea Reform and others for MLK service project; viewing of *Screenagers* with other Presbyterian churches; annual flour war with nearby Presbyterian churches.
- Youth will be participating in CROP walk, and helped with Florence Forth.
- Is also the social media coordinator for the church. If anyone has anything to share on social media regarding the church, contact Sarah.

Mindy reminds everyone that Sam is teaching a class on Monday evenings this semester so cannot be here. Cherrie has returned from two-week trip to Israel. Susan has been working with UMD, and with CAN on affordable housing.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **Christian Education** – Lenore Champion, Caroline Rourk, Brent Curtis

Lenore asked for volunteers to hide the eggs for the upcoming Sunday's Easter egg hunt.

B. **Finance/Investment** – Al Arrowood, Carol Carson – No report.

Thank you to Karen and Gray for the excellent job they did leading the congregational meeting through the budget and changes to pastors' calls.

Al notes that occasionally papers, policies, etc. are developed and should be available to the congregation. He asks that the session consider how to make these documents available. It was suggested that they could be available on the website, in under a "Policies and Procedures" section. A new website is under development. Session minutes might be able to be placed there as well.

C. **Nominating** – Tyler Momsen-Hudson – No report. New officer trainings are scheduled to begin soon.

D. **Personnel** – Gray Wilson – No report.

Gray thanked all of the Session for the many conversations around the personnel budget. The process was a good one and he looks forward to more in the future.

E. **Property** – Chris Brown, Celia Dickerson

Introduced the motion (see below), referring to the reports attached to these minutes, and invited questions and discussion.

Discussion included questions about the age of the roofs to be repaired, the timeline for future repairs, and the process of choosing a roofer. It was suggested that for significant work in the future, the committee go through the process of accepting competitive bids. By going through the process, the groundwork is laid for future repairs and bids. It was also noted that there is a lack of institutional memory regarding the facility. This is a serious need, and should be considered for the strategic plan.

The vote was called on the motion brought by the committee:

Approve the use of 2018 Repair and Improvement Endowment Funds to replace the Roxboro Street Roof, replace the Fellowship Hall Roof, and complete an additional \$1,100 of repairs on other roof areas. The total estimated project cost is \$30,181. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris added to the committee's report: The committee received a request from Day School board to have access to Deacons' Office and convert it to lounge space for staff. There are no major obstacles to honoring this request: Chris discussed logistics with Tom Bloom, and the committee was in support of the proposal. Documents stored there can be relocated into Membership office, as well as the freezer. Alarm and fire panels are in the Deacons' Office, and FPC staff will continue to have access to the space.

Mindy suggested beginning a log book for the facility with this project.

F. Service and Mission – Jane Williams, Libby Gulley

The committee met on Monday night. The Lenten Match raised over \$21,000 before the match. Donations came from 80 households, a broad group from the church, indicating how important social justice is to this congregation.

Jane and Libby remind members to support a CROP walker if they are not going to walk themselves.

The \$2,500 allocated for the Honduras mission trip is in honor of Miguel and Margaret Rubiera. Habitat made a plaque for the Rubieras honoring their service.

John Fricks and Dale Gaddis have worked hard to get SM information ready for the new website.

Mindy summarized the motion from the committee, to approve a letter from First Presbyterian to local civic leaders. The vote was called:

Approve a letter to the city and county council members in support of the establishment of the City-County Commission on Confederate Monuments and Memorials. Motion passes unanimously.

G. Stewardship Committee – Miriam Morey, George Bernhardt – No report

H. Worship and the Arts – Jerry Postema, Alice Raney

Jerry Postema gave an oral report.

FPC has been extended an invitation from Covenant and we will be joining them for Maundy Thursday service. We have extended an invitation to them to

participate in the Stations of the Cross at FPC and St. Philip's Episcopal on Good Friday. This is an important connection and Jerry hopes Session members can all be part of that.

Jerry pointed out the framed art hanging near the western doors of the meeting parlor. The two woodblock prints were donated by David and Judy Smith, and had belonged to David's mother. The panel above the door is from Roxanne Nagy, who has a family connection to the artist. It is the committee's hope that in the future we will continue to integrate art into worship and community life.

Finally, from time to time, it comes to the attention of the committee that the chapel isn't used. It's not heated and it's difficult to access. How can we make better use of it? Its use requires cooperation between committees (Property, CE, WATAC, for example).

ONGOING BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Team Tollgate – Mindy Douglas. The SPT is in the middle of first round of listening sessions. Six very small groups have been created, with group membership targeted by a certain demographic, then randomly chosen by a random number generator. Three met this past Sunday after church. Three more will meet in the next week or two. The information gathered will help construct a short survey, which will be shared with the whole congregation.

NEW BUSINESS

Gift Acceptance Policy Update – Mindy points members to the GAP ad hoc committee report (attached to these minutes). The committee met at end of February and will continue their work going forward.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, the meeting closed with prayer by Mindy at 8:03 pm.

This meeting and all meetings of the year are moderated according to *The Book of Order* and *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Next Stated Meeting – April 23, 2018
Gray Wilson will lead the devotion.

Christyn F. Klinck, Clerk

Rev. Mindy Douglas, Moderator

Approved by Session: _____